

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190019
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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 190019

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMY MOVEMENT SOUTH

REF: BEIRUT 4212

1. ASSUME BOUTROS IS AWARE OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN
PARA 4 OF REFTEL WHICH INDICATES THAT, ACCORDING TO UNIFIL,
OF 4,000 CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS IN SOUTH LEBANON 3,600 ARE
IRREGULAR MILITIA MEN AND ONLY 400 NOMINALLY ARE MEMBERS

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OF LEBANESE ARMY. THIS SUGGESTS THAT EVEN GIVEN MAXIMUM
COOPERATION BY ISRAEL AND HADDAD-SHIDIAC, ATTITUDE OF
MILITIA LEADERSHIP IN BEIRUT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN
DETERMINING WHETHER CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS--PARTICULARLY THOSE
NOT UNDER HADDAD-SHIDIAC COMMAND--COOPERATE WITH OR OPPOSE
LEBANESE ARMY DEPLOYMENT.

2. IT FOLLOWS THAT BOUTROS AND CO. SHOULD BE WORKING ON CHAMOUNS AND GEMAYELS WITH VIEW TO OBTAINING THEIR COOPERATION WHEN TIME COMES. PERHAPS THERE IS ALSO SOMETHING WE COULD DO IN THIS REGARD. YOU MIGHT THEREFORE IN YOUR NEXT TALK WITH BOUTROS PLANT THIS IDEA (WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE OCCURRED TO HIM), ASK WHAT HE HAS BEEN DOING, WHAT THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN AND WHETHER WE CAN HELP. CHRISTOPHER

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